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State Environmental Policy Act
Determination of Nonsignificance and Environmental Checklist
300 Area Solvent Evaporator

The Department of Ecology, Nuclear and Mixed Waste Management Program has made this Determination of Nonsignificance under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). A SEPA determination is used by the lead regulatory agency to decide whether a proposed action will have significant or nonsignificant adverse environmental impacts.

In accordance with SEPA, Ecology is accepting comments on this determination until October 23, 1992. Please address any comments to:

Geoff Tallent
Nuclear and Mixed Waste Management
Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600



DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Description of proposal Clean closure under RCRA of the 300 Area Solvent Evaporator on the Hanford Site which formerly contained spent solvents. All wastes were previously removed as part of the initial closure.

Proponent U.S Department of Energy and Westinghouse Hanford Company

Location of proposal, including street address if any The northeast corner of the 300 Area of the Hanford Site, north of Richland, WA (T10N, R28E, Section 11)

Lead agency Department of Ecology, Nuclear and Mixed Waste Management Program

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

- ☐ There is no comment period for this DNS.
- ☒ This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 15 days from the date below. Comments must be submitted by 10/23/92.

Responsible official Roger Stanley

Position/title Program Manager, Nuclear and Mixed Waste Management

Address Department of Ecology, P.O. Box 47600, Olympia, Washington 98504-7600

Date Sept. 29, 1992 Signature Roger Stanley

The following information is incorporated by reference into this DNS under WAC 197-11-635 and, upon request to the address above, is available for review during the comment period:

Document: Hanford Site National Environmental Policy Act Characterization, PNL-6415

Relevant Content: This document, referenced in the Environmental Checklist, describes the existing environment of the Hanford Site including plant and animal life and historic areas.

Document: 300 Area Solvent Evaporator Closure Plan (Revision 3)

Relevant Content: This document, referenced in the Environmental Checklist, details procedures to prevent and manage potential hazards of the proposal.

ENCLOSURE 3

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (SEPA)

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORMS

REVISION 2

FOR

300 AREA SOLVENT EVAPORATOR

CLOSURE PLAN

REVISION 3

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SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST (Rev. 2)
FOR
THE 300 AREA SOLVENT EVAPORATOR
CLOSURE PLAN (Rev. 3)

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Closure of the 300 Area Solvent Evaporator (300 ASE) site.

Information contained in this checklist applies only to the 300 Area Solvent Evaporator site. Additional environmental information regarding the Hanford Site can be found in the environmental documents referenced in the answer to checklist question A.8.

2. Names of applicants:

U.S. Department of Energy-Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL) and
Westinghouse Hanford Company (WHC)

3. Address and phone number of applicants and contact persons:

U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

Westinghouse Hanford Company
P.O. Box 1970
Richland, Washington 99352

Contact persons:

R. D. Izatt, Director
Environmental Restoration Division
(509) 376-5441

R. E. Lerch, Manager
Environmental Division
(509) 376-5556

4. Date checklist prepared:

February 27, 1990

5. Agency requesting checklist:

State of Washington
Department of Ecology
Mail Stop PV-11
Olympia, Washington 98504-8711

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

Initial closure activities have been completed. All waste remaining in the 300 ASE was solidified and removed to a treatment, storage, and/or disposal (TSD) facility. The solvent evaporator tank was sectioned and also removed to a TSD facility. Upon approval of the 300 ASE Closure Plan, it is anticipated that final closure will be completed within 180 days.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansions, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

The closure activities that remain to be performed include soil and concrete sampling to verify absence of soil and concrete contamination originating from the 300 ASE. If clean closure is not practical, final disposition of the site will be determined through the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) process in conjunction with the 300 Aggregate Area Operable Unit (300-FF-2).

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

This revised SEPA Checklist is being submitted to the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) concurrently with revision 3 of the Closure Plan for the 300 ASE. A Memorandum-to-File and an Environmental Evaluation similar to this SEPA Checklist may be prepared for DOE-RL and WHC internal documentation purposes. A RI/FS is planned for the 300-FF-2 Operable Unit.

Additional environmental information regarding the Hanford Site can be found in the following documents:

Final Environmental Impact Statement - Disposal of Hanford Defense High-Level, Transuranic and Tank Wastes, DOE/EIS-0113, Volumes 1 through 5, 1987, U. S. Department of Energy, Washington, D.C.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Decommissioning of Eight Surplus Reactors Production Reactors at the Hanford Site, Richland Washington, DOE/EIS-0119D, 1989, U. S. Department of Energy, Washington, D.C.

Hanford Site National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Characterization, C. E. Cushing, PNL-6415, Rev. 1, 1987, UC-11, Pacific Northwest Laboratory, Richland, Washington.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for government approvals of other proposals directly affecting property covered by your proposal?

No.

- 1
2 10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your
3 proposal, if known.
4

5 Ecology is the lead agency authorized to approve the closure plan for
6 the 300 ASE site under requirements authorized by the Resource
7 Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and Chapter 173-303-400 of the
8 Washington Administrative Code. No other permits are known to be
9 required at this time.
10

- 11 11. Give a brief, complete description of your proposal, including the
12 proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several
13 questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain
14 aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on
15 this page.
16

17 This project proposes a clean closure strategy for final closure of the
18 300 ASE. Clean closure is contingent on the verification that soil and
19 concrete contamination originating from the 300 ASE is below
20 established clean up levels. Soil and concrete samples will be
21 collected and analyzed to assess contamination.
22

23 The solvent evaporator closure site is located in the northeast corner
24 of the 300 Area of the Hanford Site. The evaporator operated as a
25 treatment tank facility for solvent wastes from nearby reactor fuel
26 manufacturing facilities from 1975 to 1985. All waste remaining in the
27 300 ASE was solidified and removed to a TSD facility. The solvent
28 evaporator tank was sectioned and also removed to a TSD facility. The
29 remaining closure site is a section of soil (approximately 500 square
30 feet) and a portion of the 333 East Concrete Pad (approximately 2200
31 square feet) that encompassed the location of the 300 ASE during its
32 10-year operating period.
33

34 Underlying the 300 ASE site is an inactive low-level radioactive waste
35 burial ground (618-1). This burial ground is one of a group of sites
36 within the 300 Area collectively referred to as the 300 Operable Unit
37 300-FF-2. The 300 Aggregate Area Operable Units (including Operable
38 Unit 300-FF-2) have been included on the National Priorities List (NPL)
39 of federal facilities requiring remedial action and regulation under
40 the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability
41 Act (CERCLA).
42
43

- 44 12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to
45 understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a
46 street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If
47 a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or
48 boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan,
49 vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you
50 should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to
51 duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications
52 related to this checklist.
53

1 The facility is located in T10N, R28E, Section 11 in the northeast
2 corner of the 300 Area of the Hanford Site. Maps and detailed location
3 plans are contained in the closure plan submitted with this checklist.
4
5
6

7 B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS
8

9 1. Earth
10

- 11 a. General description of the site: Flat, rolling, hilly, steep
12 slopes, mountainous, other.

13 Flat.
14

- 15
16
17 b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?
18

19 The approximate slope of the land at the facility is less than two
20 percent.
21

- 22
23 c. What general types of soil are found on the site (for example,
24 clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of
25 agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.
26

27 The soil found at the 300 ASE site is fill material consisting of a
28 gravelly sand with cobbles. No farming is permitted on the site.
29

- 30
31 d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the
32 immediate vicinity? If so, describe.
33

34 No.
35

- 36
37 e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any
38 filling or grading proposed. Indicate the source of the fill.
39

40 None at this time.
41

- 42
43 f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use?
44 If so, describe.
45

46 Due to the flat topography, dry climate; and soil type present at
47 the site, erosion is not expected.
48
49
50
51
52

- 1 g. About what percentage of the site will be covered with impervious
2 surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or
3 buildings)?
4

5 None at this time.
6
7

- 8 h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to
9 the earth, if any:
10

11 None at this time.
12
13

14 2. Air
15

- 16 a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal
17 (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during
18 construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally
19 describe and give approximate quantities if known.
20

21 Minor amounts of dust may be generated from the drill which is used
22 for concrete sampling. Air misting will be used to control airborne
23 discharges during concrete drilling.
24

- 25 b. Are there any offsite sources of emissions or odors that may affect
26 your proposal? If so, generally describe.
27

28 No.
29
30

- 31 c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to
32 the air, if any:
33

34 None at this time.
35
36

37 3. Water
38

- 39 a. Surface
40

- 41 1) Is there any surface water body in or in the immediate vicinity
42 of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams,
43 saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and
44 provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it
45 flows into.
46

47 No. The closest body of surface water is the Columbia River,
48 which is approximately one-third of a mile from the 300 ASE.
49
50
51
52
53

- 1 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to
2 (within 200 feet of) the described waters? If yes, please
3 describe and attach available plans.
4

5 No.
6
7

- 8 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be
9 placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate
10 the area that would be affected. Indicate the source of the
11 fill.
12

13 None.
14

- 15 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or
16 diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate
17 quantities if known.
18

19 No.
20
21

- 22 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note
23 location on the site plan.
24

25 No.
26
27

- 28 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste material to
29 surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and
30 anticipated volume of discharge.
31

32 No.
33
34
35

36 b. Ground
37

- 38 1) Will groundwater be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to
39 groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate
40 quantities if known.
41

42 No.
43
44

- 45 2) Describe waste materials that will be discharged into the ground
46 from septic waste tanks or other sources, if any (for example:
47 Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following
48 chemicals...; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of
49 the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to
50 be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans
51 the system(s) are expected to serve.
52

53 Does not apply.

1 c. Water Run-off (including storm water):
2
3

- 4 1) Describe the source of run-off (including storm water) and
5 methods of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities,
6 if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow
7 into other wastes? If so, describe.

8 Does not apply.
9

- 10
11
12 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so,
13 generally describe.
14

15 No.
16
17

- 18 d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and run-off
19 water impacts, if any:
20

21 Does not apply.
22
23

24 4. Plants
25

- 26 a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:
27

28 ___ deciduous trees: alder, maple, aspen, other
29 ___ evergreen trees: fir, cedar, pine, other
30 ___ shrubs
31 ___ grass
32 ___ pasture
33 ___ crop or grain
34 ___ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bulrush, skunk cabbage,
35 other
36 ___ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
37 ___ other types of vegetation
38

39 None.
40
41

- 42 b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?
43

44 None.
45
46

- 47 c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the
48 site.
49

50 None on the 300 ASE site. However, additional information
51 concerning endangered and threatened plants on the Hanford Site can
52 be found in the environmental documents referenced in the answer to
53 checklist question A8.

1 be found in the environmental documents referenced in the answer to
2 checklist question A8.

- 3 d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to
4 preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any.

5
6 None.

7
8
9 5. Animals

- 10
11 a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near
12 the site or are known to be on or near the site:

13 birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other

14 mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other

15 fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other

16
17
18 Starlings, lagomorphs, and pigeons have been observed on the site.
19 Additional information on birds and animals found on the Hanford
20 Site can be found in the environmental documents referenced in the
21 answer to checklist question A8.

- 22
23
24
25
26 b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near
27 the site.

28
29 The 300 ASE site is not known to be used by any threatened or
30 endangered species. Additional information concerning endangered
31 and threatened animals on the Hanford Site can be found in the
32 environmental documents referenced in the answer to checklist
33 question A8.

- 34
35
36 c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

37
38 No, the site is not used by animals for migration. However, the
39 adjacent Columbia River is considered an important resting place
40 for Pacific flyway waterfowl and shore birds during the autumn
41 migration. Additional information on the Hanford Site environment
42 can be found in the environmental documents referenced in the
43 answer to checklist question A8.

- 44
45
46 d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

47
48 None.

49
50
51 6. Energy and Natural Resources
52
53

- 1 a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove,
2 solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs?
3 Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.
4

5 None.
6
7

- 8 b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by
9 adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.
10

11 No.
12

- 13 c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the
14 plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or
15 control energy impacts, if any:
16

17 Does not apply.
18
19

20 7. Environmental Health
21

- 22 a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to
23 toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous
24 waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so,
25 describe.
26

27 Environmental health hazards are not expected. However, the
28 potential for exposure to hazardous chemicals exists during the
29 soil sampling effort. Procedures to prevent and manage hazards are
30 presented in the closure plan.
31

- 32 1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.
33

34 In the event of an unexpected emergency, fire, ambulance, and
35 patrol assistance may be required. These services are
36 available on the Hanford Site.
37

- 38
39 2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health
40 hazards, if any:
41

42 No environmental health hazards are expected. Procedures to
43 prevent and manage potential hazards are presented in the
44 closure plan.
45

46
47 b. Noise
48

- 49 1) What type of noise exists in the area which may affect your
50 project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?
51

52 None.
53

- 1
2
3 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or
4 associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term
5 basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)?
6 Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.
7

8 A minor short-term increase in noise, may result from the
9 air drill which is used for concrete sampling.
10

- 11 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:
12

13 None.
14

15 8. Land and Shoreline Use
16

- 17 a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?
18

19 The 300 ASE site is part of the Hanford Site, which contains many
20 facilities for waste management and special nuclear material
21 production. When the evaporator was active (1975-1985), it
22 provided treatment by evaporation for spent solvents generated at
23 Hanford. All waste remaining at the site has been removed to a TSD
24 facility. No waste management activity is currently ongoing on the
25 300 ASE site. Completely underlying the 300 ASE site is an
26 inactive solid radioactive waste burial ground. The 618-1 Burial
27 Ground was in service from 1945 to 1957 and contains uranium,
28 plutonium, and fission products from the 300 Area fuel manufac-
29 turing facilities and incidental waste from 300 Area laboratories
30 which were in operation at that time. Adjacent to the 300 ASE site
31 is an active concrete pad for materials and equipment storage.
32

- 33
34 b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.
35

36 The 300 ASE site has not been used for agricultural purposes since
37 1943.
38

- 39
40 c. Describe any structures on the site.
41

42 Does not apply.
43
44

- 45 d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?
46

47 No.
48
49

- 50 e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?
51

52 The 300 ASE site possesses the zoning classification of
53 Unclassified Use by Benton County.

- 1
2
3
4 f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

5
6 The 1985 Benton County Comprehensive Land Use Plan designates the
7 Hanford Site as the "Hanford Reservation". Under this designation,
8 land on the Site may be used for "activities nuclear in nature".
9 Non-nuclear activities are authorized "if and when DOE approval for
10 such activities is obtained".
11

- 12
13 g. If applicable, what is the current master shoreline program
14 designation of the site?

15 Does not apply.
16
17

- 18
19 h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally
20 sensitive" area? If so, specify.
21

22 No.
23

- 24
25 i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed
26 project?
27

28 None.
29

- 30
31 j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?
32

33 None.
34
35

- 36 k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:
37

38 Does not apply.
39

- 40
41 l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with
42 existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:
43

44 Does not apply.
45

46
47 9. Housing
48

- 49 a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate
50 whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
51

52 None.
53

- 1
2
3 b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated?
4 Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
5

6 None.
7
8

- 9 c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:
10

11 Does not apply.
12
13
14

15 10. Aesthetics
16

- 17 a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not
18 including antennas; what is the principal exterior building
19 material(s) proposed?
20

21 Does not apply.
22
23

- 24 b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or
25 obstructed?
26

27 None.
28
29

- 30 c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:
31

32 Does not apply.
33
34
35

36 11. Light and Glare
37

- 38 a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time
39 of the day would it mainly occur?
40

41 None.
42
43

- 44 b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard
45 or interfere with views?
46

47 No.
48
49

- 50 c. What existing offsite sources of light and glare may affect your
51 proposal?
52

53 None.

- 1
2
3
4 d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if
5 any:

6
7 Does not apply.
8
9

10 12. Recreation

- 11
12 a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the
13 immediate vicinity?

14
15 None.
16

- 17
18 b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses?
19 If so, describe.

20
21 Does not apply.
22

- 23
24 c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation,
25 including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or
26 applicant, if any:

27
28 Does not apply.
29
30

31 13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

- 32
33 a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for,
34 national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or
35 next to the site? If so, generally describe.

36
37 No part of the 300 ASE is listed on or proposed for inclusion on
38 preservation registers. Additional information on the Hanford Site
39 environment can be found in the environmental documents referenced
40 in the answer to checklist question A8.
41

- 42
43 b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic,
44 archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on
45 or next to the site.

46
47 There are no known archaeological, historical, or native American
48 religious sites at the facility. Additional information on the
49 Hanford Site environment can be found in the environmental
50 documents referenced in the answer to checklist question A8.
51
52
53

1 c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

2
3 Does not apply.
4

5
6 14. Transportation
7

8 a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and
9 describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on
10 site plans, if any.

11 Does not apply.
12

13
14
15 b. Is the site currently served by public transit? If not, what is
16 the approximate distance to the nearest stop?

17
18 The site is not publicly accessible and, therefore, is not served
19 by public transit.
20

21
22 c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many
23 would the project eliminate?

24
25 None.
26

27
28 d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements
29 to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so,
30 generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

31
32 No.
33

34
35 e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water,
36 rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

37
38 No.
39

40
41 f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the
42 completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would
43 occur.

44
45 None.
46

47
48 g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if
49 any:

50 Does not apply.
51
52
53

15. Public Services

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No.

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any:

Does not apply.

16. Utilities

- a. List utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

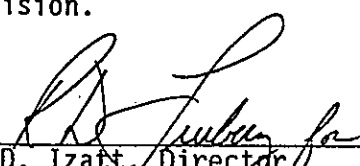
None.

- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

None.

C. SIGNATURES

The above answers are true and complete to the best of our knowledge. We understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.


R. D. Izatt, Director
Environmental Restoration Division
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office

3/28/90
Date


R. E. Lerch, Manager
Environmental Division
Westinghouse Hanford Company

3/28/90
Date

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